

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-07 AEC-11 L-03

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-14 SCI-06 ACDA-19 SS-20 NSC-10

DRC-01 /179 W

----- 067102

R 281255Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2715

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS SUVA 161

EO11652: NA

TAGS: ETRN, FJ

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: SERVICES TO FIJI CUT

EB/TT/OA FOR MEADOWS

1. AMERICAN AIRLINES IN FIJI ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 27 THAT ITS REQUEST TO USCAB TO STOP SOUTH PACIFIC SERVICE HAD BEEN APPROVED BUT NO DATE FOR CESSATION OF SERVICE GIVEN. EMBASSY INFORMED THAT LAST FLIGHTS WILL PASS THROUGH FIJI MARCH 3.

2. ALSO ON FEBRUARY 27 UTA RPT UTA ANNOUNCED SUSPENSION OF SERVICE THROUGH NADI EFFECTIVE MARCH 3 BECAUSE OF BAN IMPOSED BY FIJI COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS (FCTU), GROUP OF UNIONS THAT BROKE AWAY FROM ESTABLISHED AND MORE RESPECTABLE FIJI TRADES UNION CONGRESS (FTUC). FCTU PRESIDENT APISAI TORA (WHO IS ALSO MP FOR NATIONAL FEDERATION PARTY) IS CONCURRENTLY SECRETARY OF AIRLINE WORKERS UNION. IN LETTER TO UTA MANAGER, TORA SAID BAN WAS IN PROTEST AGAINST FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING IN PACIFIC. UTA US CLEARLY GETTING FED UP WITH ON AGAIN OFF AGAIN RIGHTS TO NADI AND MANAGER TOLD PRESS THAT AIRLINE CONSIDERING

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SWITCHING ALL ITS SERVICES THROUGH PAGO PAGO.

3. WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN AND UTA, ALONG WITH SUSPENSION OF SERVICE TO FIJI BY AIR INDIA AS OF END MARCH, DROPS TO FIVE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES SERVING FIJI. IN ADDITION, SOME OF THOSE STILL SERVING HAVE BEEN FORCED BY FUEL SHORTAGES TO REDUCE FLIGHT (EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS BRITISH AIRWAYS HAS CUT NUMBER OF FLIGHTS BY HALF).

4. FIJI TOURIST BUREAU AND HOTEL ASSOCIATIONS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DISTURBED BY SITUATION, WHICH IS CREATING DIFFICULTIES FOR TOURISTS GETTING IN AND OUT OF FIJI.
HALL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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